

BISHOP WINNINGTON-INGRAM C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Aims and Purpose

The aims and purpose of our Collective Worship are:

- ✚ To celebrate our Christian faith through daily acts of collective worship;
- ✚ For the children and staff to experience a peaceful, reflective time together and space from the hectic school day;
- ✚ To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- ✚ To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- ✚ To enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- ✚ To encourage participation and response;
- ✚ To develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- ✚ To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- ✚ To teach children how to worship.

Collective Worship

At BWI we understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the Collective worship. Governors are welcome to join all acts of collective worship. We base our collective worship on the teachings of the Bible and the traditions of the Christian Church and conduct them in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community. When appropriate we hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in school and in the wider community.

Organization of collective worship

At BWI we hold some form of daily active worship. This may be as a whole school, or in Key Stages, year groups or as individual classes. Acts of Collective Worship are held as indicated in the table (Appendix 1).

Collective worship is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Worship time is a period of peaceful reflection which we regard as a special time when children are expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Staff are expected to prepare the children for a time of worship through promotion of a calm, composed atmosphere in the classroom before they participate in worship. They should be quiet and

thoughtful, listen carefully to the teachings, and participate fully in prayers and hymns/ songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music at the beginning of collective worship as the children are arriving and by using candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. (For guidelines for leading Collective Worship see Appendix 2)

As well as staff conducting collective worship the clergy of St Martins Parish Church and clergy of local churches attended by BWI families regularly lead our Wednesday whole school acts of worship. Children are given the opportunity to participate in and/ or plan and arrange acts of worship themselves.

There are weekly themes for collective worship which are built around the Christian faith and lifestyles as well as reflecting the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Our themes also relate broadly to the topics in the Primary National Strategy Excellence and Enjoyment: social and emotional aspects of learning. There is a rota for each term which shows the weekly themes and who will be leading the acts of worship each day. Records of acts of worship are kept in a file in the staffroom.

Key Stage acts of worship reflect the achievements of our children. Each week class teachers select two (occasionally more) children from their class to receive praise for specific achievements. These achievements are recorded in our Mentions Book and read out during the Key Stage worship. All children will be included in the Mentions Book on at least one occasion during the school year. Children are also encouraged to bring certificates, cups, shields etc. awarded in out of school activities to share their achievements with their peer group. This plays an important role in promoting the ethos of BWI, which is that all children are valued and all achievements acknowledged. The birthdays of all children are celebrated at these acts of collective worship. Parents and family of children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are invited to join key stage worship when their child is celebrating their birthday. These children complete a Birthday certificate prior to this time writing or drawing about special aspects of their birthday they would like to share with others.

Twice each term Key Stage 2 children celebrate Mass in school. These services are led by the clergy of St Martins and a number of Year 6 children are involved through writing/ reading of prayers, serving, or reading the lesson. Parents, Governors and parishioners of St Martins are encouraged to join these services to promote the home/ school/ church links.

On the final day of each school term a service is held at St Martins Church for children in Years 1 - 6. Children in Reception attend the summer term end of year service. Children and staff are encouraged to contribute in a variety of ways e.g. writing and reading prayers, playing instruments, and reading appropriate passages from the Bible or other suitable texts.

Resources

There are a wide variety of resources available to help with planning acts of worship kept in the staffroom and the Headteacher's office. In addition the following web sites have material suitable for use; www.assemblies.org and www.spinnaker.org.uk

Right of withdrawal

All staff and children are expected to attend collective acts of worship. However, any parent may request permission for their child to be excused from attending daily worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This is in compliance with the 1944 Education Act and is restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of any children who withdraw from collective worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the responsibility of the named school governor for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. Each year the Staff Coordinator for this area will attend the beginning of a Full Governing Body meeting to give an annual report. The governor concerned should liaise with this member of staff to agree and endorse the report before it is presented to the Governors.

Approved by the Governing Body
Signed by:

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Chair of Governors

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Date

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Date for Annual Review

Written January 2006

Collective Worship Policy

APPENDIX 1

Weekly organisation of Collective Worship

DAY	TIME	WHO	WHERE	ORGANISED BY
Monday	9am	Whole School	Hall	Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher
Tuesday	9am	Foundation Stage	Hall	Foundation Stage staff
	11.50am	Key Stage 2	Hall	Key Stage 2 staff
	2.50pm	Key Stage 1	Hall	Key Stage 1 staff
Wednesday	9am	Whole School	Hall	St Martins or visiting clergy
	2.50pm	Foundation Stage	Hall	Foundation Stage staff
Thursday	9am	Year groups	Classrooms	Staff/ children
Friday	9am	Singing Assemblies: KS2	Hall	Assistant Headteacher/ KS2 staff
		KS1	Y1/2 classroom	Key Stage 1 staff
		Foundation	Reception classroom	Foundation Stage staff

Guidelines for leading Collective Worship

- ✚ Collective worship should last no longer than 20 minutes.
- ✚ The content of collective worship should be planned to emphasize the weekly theme and its link with Christianity.
- ✚ Children should be involved wherever possible, either directly in some form of activity, through their responses to ideas presented during worship or by reading prayers.
- ✚ A sense of reverence is vital to all acts of worship.
- ✚ All whole school acts of collective worship should begin with one of the whole school prayers.
- ✚ A candle should be lit at the beginning of collective worship and remain alight throughout worship to remind everyone that Jesus is the Light of our World, and to focus the children's attention.
- ✚ A prayer and/ or time for silent reflection should end the main part of collective worship.
- ✚ An appropriate hymn or song should be sung at some point during collective worship.